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Vidhyalaya Universidad Universtitat

Peg Piaggi
Iowa State College

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Vidhyalaya
Universidad
Universitat
by Peg Piaggi
Technical Journalism Senior

These unfamiliar words mean "college" to graduate students Gwen Mathews of India, Martina Cardenas of Paraguay, and Maria Osberghaus of Germany.

Gwen was graduated from Queen Mary's College, a girls' school in Madras, India. She is continuing her study of dietetics at Iowa State through a Rotary Foundation Fellowship.

"In India," Gwen remarks, "college is in session only 6 months of the year." The other 6 months consist of vacations and religious or national holidays.

Grades in India are based entirely on the final examinations. Each subject is studied for 2 years. Therefore students take final tests only twice during their 4 years of college.

"On Homecoming Day at Queen Mary's, a mad-capping orchestra of tins, screechy old violins, and motor horns, parades the corridors at 2:00 a.m. to wake everyone up for sea-bathing," said Gwen. The buildings are decorated, and a tea is given in the afternoon to honor alumnae.

Freshmen Initiation

Freshmen are subjected to a week of "ragging," when they "rag" or run errands for the seniors. Initiation takes place on the final day. During this ceremony, the new students drink a toast of boot polish, lime juice, talcum powder, blanco (white shoe polish), and onions. Then they grip a bloodsucker in their hands as they swear loyalty to their dormitory.

Martina remarked, "At Iowa State the teachers are more friendly, but the students are more serious than in Paraguay." She explained that Paraguayan students are always laughing and joking, whether in or out of class.

Martina was graduated from the Teacher School and the Physical Education School at the university in Asuncion, Paraguay. Her year of study at Iowa State is sponsored by the Iowa Federation of Women's Clubs and the Institute of International Education. In Martina's country, the only graded examination is the final, which is given at the end of 1 year's study.

University students live either in private homes or in boarding houses off campus. Martina said that there are no rules to worry about, but the students must study as much as Iowa Staters do.

Paraguayan students of the University in Asuncion celebrate the date of their city's founding, August 15, 1537.

Home economics is taught only in private girls' schools. Most of these schools are located in the corner of a business building. The staffs, consisting of two to five instructors, teach cooking, drawing, sewing, handwork, and knitting.

The most important event of the university year is a 2-week-long celebration called Tournament Week. Festivities begin with a torch ceremony. Men carrying torches run through the streets of the city to the stadium, where a formal program is presented. During the holiday the various schools of the university compete in intramural sports, including football.

Politics in Paraguay

In Paraguay, young people are avidly interested in politics. "That is our favorite occupation," laughed Martina.

Maria Osberghaus attended the university in Munich, Germany, and majored in agricultural education. Before attending the university, Maria studied home economics in a special school. Maria's study of extension service and 4-H club work at Iowa is sponsored by the German Office of Food and Agriculture, and the United States State Department.

Classes consume more time at German universities, Maria said, but attendance is not required. Maria remarked that students may skip classes for a week or two in the winter, to ski in the mountains.

Diplomas are awarded to anyone who can pass the final examinations. However, Maria pointed out that 50 per cent of the students fail because these tests are so difficult.

Maria said that there used to be a great social distance between German students and their teachers. But the trend now is toward more informality. During classes, students shuffle and stamp their feet when they disagree with what the instructor is saying.

Activities and social life at the university in Munich center in the men's unions, which were established between 1600-1700 A. D. "Before the war it was an old custom for the boys to fight in their unions," Maria said. "But after the war it was forbidden." Now the unions have weekly meetings and sponsor sports events, parties and dances.

Every year each union has a homecoming day, when they entertain alumni for dinner. But there are no exhibitions or decorations. At union parties students dance, talk and drink beer. Popular dance music includes tangos, fox trots, English waltzes and, since the war — the samba and swing.